



FAA Production Studio News

September 2004

“2005 ASC of the Year” & Landscape Dedication

By Cheryl DeFilippo & Hugh Hardy
FAA Production Studio Staff

2005 ASC of the Year

We are pleased to announce the recipient of the 2005 “ASC of the Year” award.

Diego M. Alfonso, Sr., attended the Professional School of Business, Union, New Jersey, and began his aviation career working as an Airline Pilot for Province Town Boston Airline. In 1983 Diego moved to Orlando, Florida where he accepted the position of Chief Pilot for a FAR 135 Operation. Diego also spent several years in Corporate Aviation flying turboprop aircraft.

In 1990, Diego was appointed an Aviation Safety Counselor for the Orlando Flight Standards District Office because of his experience and willingness to serve the local and national aviation community. Diego was appointed as a Designated Pilot Examiner (DPE) for the Orlando FSDO and has been serving in that capacity for many years.

Diego has logged 20,000 hours of flight time as a pilot of which approximately 11,000 hours are dual flight instruction given.

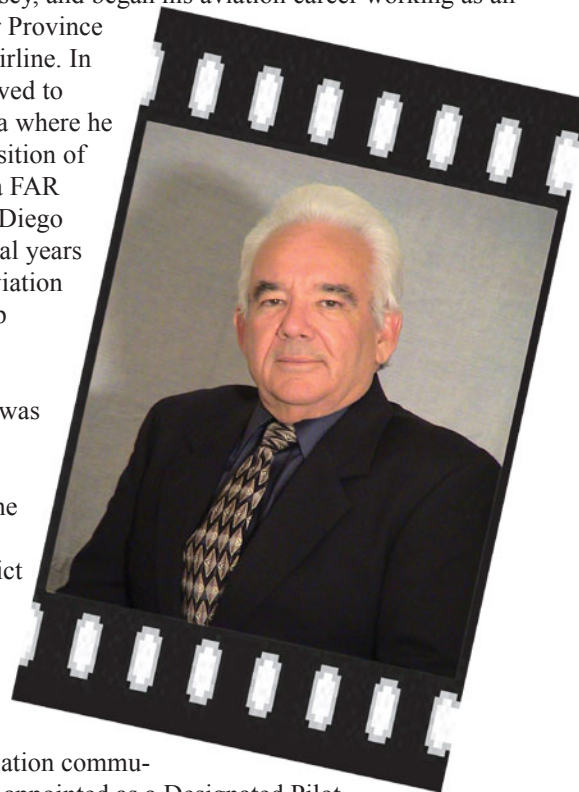


On September 24 the FAA Production Studio Staff and Crew were pleased to host a “Landscape Dedication Ceremony” honoring Adair & Billy Henderson and Professor Tom Mack.

In a spectacular challenge to enhance the surround of the FAA Production Studio facility Billy and Adair took on the task. They immediately asked Professor Tom Mack to come on board and assist them in designing a landscape plan. He agreed and the three began collaborating.

Billy and Adair contacted the City of Lakeland and asked for their assistance and any contributions they would be willing to make. Without hesitation the Florida Aviation Safety Foundation, Lakeland Linder Regional Airport and Sun ‘n Fun were on board with their support for the project. ASC’s and Production Crew Members volunteered to help out and Hugh Hardy donated several Sago Palm’s. The City of Lakeland came through with Palm Trees and the staff support to plant them and Billy and Adair began digging and forming up sidewalks to ready them for concrete. The plant beds were laid out and they began the task of the planting. Crew members also installed the outside speaker system during the project.

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He also serves as the President of the Florida Association of Flight Instructors. He has been a “mover and a shaker,” a team player, a leader, and tremendous positive influence/active supporter of our district’s Aviation Safety Program for many years.

SPEAKERS BUREAU

Diego currently serves as a member of our FAASTeam Speakers Bureau, which requires a great deal of personal contact and telephonic follow-up regarding the logistics of scheduling the speaking engagements. The Speakers Bureau services the large geographic area of the Orlando FSDO between Tallahassee and Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. Diego has spoken at many locations and during special events at the FAA Safety Center and Production Studios in Lakeland, Florida. Diego’s presentation “Flight Instruction and Check Rides” is required viewing at the Delta Connection Aviation Academy. The Florida Aviation Safety Foundation and the Florida Association of Flight Instructors chose Diego to present “Flight Instructor Check Ride Tips” as one of the first major videos released by the FAA Production Studios.

FAA PRODUCTION CREW

Diego currently serves as a FAASTeam Representative (ASC Staff member) and member of the prestigious, one-of-a-kind, FAA Production Crew. Diego is, in fact, one of the founding members of the original FAA Production Crew. Diego has volunteered voluminous hours at the FAA Safety Center in Lakeland, Florida, to learn and acquire the techniques of operating the special technical equipment necessary to produce safety videos that have had local, regional, and national impact on aviation safety related subjects! He is qualified to operate studio equipment like: light table, sound system, audio system, spot-lights, cameras, floor mikes, Video Toaster, switcher, all located in the production studio. He’s always willing to jump in and learn or teach a new counselor, at any station! He helps promote an efficient and relaxed atmosphere for even experienced speakers who are about to give their presentation to possibly thousands of seminar participants. His pleasant personality has been a great asset for our public relations efforts. Diego routinely assists with the FAA Forums that are presented to audiences from all over this country, and others.

YOUTH WORK

Diego has worked diligently to educate young people about the joys and opportunities in aviation and has conducted numerous presentations at Elementary and Middle Schools throughout central Florida.

AVIATION SAFETY COUNSELOR

Being the professional aviator that Diego is, he has responded to the numerous requests from pilots and flight instructors to counsel local aviators about various flying procedures and regulations. Diego also participates in Pilot and Aircraft Courtesy Evaluations (PACE), conducted within the Orlando District. Diego volunteers his many talents to support the District wide “Wings-Weekend” Program that takes place annually each March. Diego serves as the FAASTeam Representative (ASC Staff) as chairman for the Annual Spin Seminar. The list of aviation programs that Diego supports with his time, energy, money, and enthusiasm, is long and distinguished.

SELECTION

Diego was selected from approximately 4,000 Flight Instructors within the Orlando FSDO area as the 1999 Flight Instructor of the Year. Through his personal dedication, he produces outstanding safe pilots. Diego holds an ATP certificate, a Gold Seal Flight

Instructor with Instrument and Multiengine ratings. He holds Advance and Instrument Ground Instructor ratings. He has a long and distinguished record in the Aviation Safety Program and is very deserving of this award.

SAFETY PROGRAM SUPPORT

While being highly visible in the local community, attending aviation functions and making safety presentations as a Counselor, Designated Pilot Examiner, and President of the Florida Association of Flight Instructors, Diego has inspired and recruited several new and talented ASC’s into our FAASTeam (Safety Program Team). Diego conducts seminars monthly in Orlando, Florida, that attracts hundreds of airmen to each event.

It is with great pleasure that we recognize Diego for his exemplary performance to this FSDO and the aviation community as the 2005, Orlando Flight Standards District Office, Aviation Safety Counselor of The Year.

Landscape Dedication Ceremony Cont.

Visiting dignitaries on hand for this very special dedication are pictured in the top right photo L-R:

Rick Garcia, Vice President FASF & President of Gulf Coast Avionics; Tony Delgado, City of Lakeland; Dr. Bill Lowery, FASF Director; Ernie Strange, FASF President; Professor Tom Mack, Honoree; John Burton, President Sun ‘n Fun; Adair Henderson, Sun ‘n Fun Founder, Honoree; Ben Coleman, Orlando FSDO SPM; Zac Bunkley, St. Petersburg FSS; Billy Henderson, Founder Sun ‘n Fun, Honoree; John Dubose, Acting Manager Lakeland Linder Regional Airport; The Honorable Mayor Buddy Fletcher, City of Lakeland.

Congratulations to our honorees and many, many thanks for your dedication and endless contributions to the FAA Production Studios and the Safety Program.

Thanks to all who attended this landmark event!! You make the difference!



Jack Tunstill Honored with AOPA “Laurance P. Sharples Perpetual Award”

Via an official letter from Phil Boyer, President of the Aircraft Owners & Pilots Association (AOPA), it was announced that Jack W. Tunstill is the 2004 recipient of the “Laurance P. Sharples Perpetual Award.”

Jack is the AOPA Airport Support Network Representative for Albert Whitted Airport (SPG), FL. He is also a long time FAA Production Studio Crew Member and we are very proud to acknowledge his receipt of this most deserved award.

Presented annually by AOPA, the Sharples Award recognizes the year's greatest, selfless commitment to general aviation by a private citizen. The award is

named for one of five founders of AOPA who formed the group in Philadelphia in 1939.

The award will be presented at the closing banquet of this year's AOPA Convention in Long Beach, CA on Saturday, October 23, 2004. AOPA will host Jack and his wife, Ginger, at the Convention to receive his award.

Jack acknowledged his award with this remark; “I would not be receiving this award without the support of all of you. Whether you stood on a street corner waving a sign or went to the voting booth to cast your ballot, Albert Whitted Airport is here to stay thanks to you.”



MARK YOUR CALENDARS TO ATTEND
THE 12TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS
"THANKS TO THE CAST & CREW"
RECOGNITION LUNCHEON

TO BE HELD AT THE
FAA SAFETY CENTER & PRODUCTION STUDIOS
SUN 'N FUN COMPLEX, LAKELAND, FLORIDA,
ON SATURDAY DECEMBER 4TH, FROM 1300 TO 1600,
FOLLOWING THE "AVIATION -WHOSE LINE IS IT ANYWAY" SEMINAR.
INFORMATION ON HOW TO PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS TO FOLLOW!